



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Great Government Through the General Management System – Quality, Timeliness, Value
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

CLASS SPECIFICATION

CLASSIFIED

ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION SPECIALIST

Class No. 003642

■ CLASSIFICATION PURPOSE

To conduct investigations of accidents occurring on county road right-of-ways or property or involving county operated vehicles; to collect and analyze data to determine the causes of such accidents; and to perform related work.

■ DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Accident Reconstruction Specialist is a professional class allocated to the Department of Public Works. Incumbent is responsible for performing comprehensive investigations and for applying accident reconstruction methodology to analyze and determine the cause of accidents involving county vehicles and accidents on county property or road right-of-ways resulting in potential county liability.

■ FUNCTIONS

The examples of functions listed in the class specification(s) are representative but not necessarily exhaustive or descriptive of any one position in the class(es). Management is not precluded from assigning other related functions not listed herein if such duties are a logical assignment for the position.

Essential Functions:

1. Conducts field investigations of traffic collisions, accidents occurring on county property, or accidents involving county vehicles.
2. Documents accident scenes using forensic documentation procedures.
3. Determines the cause of accidents through analysis of evidence gathered from field surveys, specialized photography, vehicle damage profiling, scale replication, occupant motion (kinematics) analysis, video re-enactment, field testing and re-enactment of events, analysis of vehicle safety systems for proper functioning, and possible mechanical failure preceding a collision.
4. Reviews police reports, witness statements and related information to determine the likelihood of successful civil or criminal prosecution.
5. Consults with county attorneys, claims representatives, and law enforcement personnel on the nature of the evidence and assists with their understanding of the dynamics of the collision.
6. Writes reports detailing the supporting documentation of the cause of an accident or collision.
7. Provides expert witness testimony during court trials, court depositions, arbitrations, and declarations.
8. Provides responsive, high quality service to County employees, representatives of outside agencies and members of the public by providing accurate, complete and up-to-date information, in a courteous, efficient and timely manner.

■ KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of:

- Principles of collision reconstruction.
- Professional subject matter from journals, technological advances and sources.
- Kinematics and forensic documentation procedures.
- Research procedures, practices, and techniques.
- Criminal and civil courtroom procedures.
- Principles, techniques, and methods of criminal and civil investigations, including skid mark and vehicular evidence collection.
- Planning, organizing, and techniques of criminal and civil investigations.
- Methods and use of modern scientific investigation equipment.
- Fundamentals of traffic engineering.
- County customer service objectives and strategies.

Skills and Abilities to:

- Determine the dynamics of a vehicle collision or personal injury.
- Prepare, review, and evaluate comprehensive reports related to complex civil and criminal cases.
- Anticipate allegations to defend against or prosecute those allegations.
- Communicate effectively orally and in writing.
- Establish effective working relationships with management, employees, employee representatives and the public representing diverse cultures and backgrounds.
- Treat County employees, representatives of outside agencies and members of the public with courtesy and respect.
- Assess the customer's immediate needs and ensure customer's receipt of needed services through personal service or referral.
- Exercise appropriate judgment in answering questions and releasing information; analyze and project consequences of decisions and/or recommendations.

■ EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE

Education, training, and/or experience that demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills, and abilities listed above. An example of qualifying education/experience is: a bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. college or university or certified foreign studies equivalency in engineering, physics or a related field; AND three (3) years of experience performing field investigations of vehicle or aircraft accidents, in a government agency or insurance company.

Note: Experience as a qualified expert witness in a courtroom setting and completion of specialized accident reconstruction training is desirable.

■ ESSENTIAL PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The physical characteristics described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of the classification(s). Reasonable accommodation may be made to enable an individual with qualified disabilities to perform the essential functions of a job, on a case-by-case basis.

Continuous upward and downward flexion of the neck. Frequent sitting, repetitive use of hands to operate computers, printers and copiers; walking, standing, bending and twisting of neck and waist, squatting, simple grasping, reaching above and below shoulder level, crouching, stooping and balancing are essential to perform physical inspections of roadways and accident scenes.

Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus.

■ SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS

License

A valid California class C driver's license, which must be maintained throughout employment in this class, is required at time of appointment. Employees in this class may be required to use their own vehicle.

Certification/Registration

None Required.

Working Conditions

Work is performed in office, outdoor, and driving environments in varying degrees of temperature. Subject to weekend work, standby and emergency call back.

Background Investigation

Must have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness. Misdemeanor and/or felony convictions may be disqualifying depending on type, number, severity, and recency. Prior to appointment, candidates will be subject to a background investigation.

Probationary Period

Incumbents appointed to permanent positions in this class shall serve a probationary period of 12 months (Civil Service Rule 4.2.5).

New: April 24, 1998
Reviewed: Spring 2004

Accident Reconstruction Specialist (Class No. 003642)

Union Code: PR

Variable Entry: Y